

REGION 6 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TOPIC: San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

DATE: July 23, 2014

CONTACT: Gary Miller (5-8318)

PURPOSE/ACTION NEEDED: For Information

DEADLINE DATE: none

BACKGROUND:

- Former waste pits used for disposal of paper mill wastes containing dioxins and furans adjacent to the San Jacinto River at the I-10 bridge in Channelview, TX.
- EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order in November 2009 for completion of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.
- Time critical removal action (TCRA) completed July 2011 by Respondents to cover waste pits (temporary cap) and prevent further releases to the river.

CURRENT STATUS:

- A revised Feasibility Study, which considers alternatives for site remediation, is being reviewed by the EPA, the State, and local agencies.
- Resolution of the potential violation issues relating to the TCRA is pending.

ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Fish consumption advisories in place for San Jacinto River; fish consumption limited to no more than one 8-ounce meal per month, and children and pregnant women should not eat any species of fish.

TECHNICAL CONCERNS:

- Ability of the cap to withstand flood conditions: TCRA cap erosion was repaired in August 2012. Subsequently, the US Army Corps of Engineers determined that there were deficiencies in the cap (including slope and grading of cap materials). On November 1, 2013, EPA notified the Potentially Responsible Parties to address the TCRA cap design and construction issues, and the cap upgrades were completed in January 2014.

REGULATORY/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:

- Requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Port of Houston, Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County, and others may apply depending on the final remedy selected.
- Established a Special Clean Water Act permit area regarding dredging and disposal in the Site vicinity.

COMMUNITY CONCERNS / OUTREACH

- EPA conducted a community meeting on January 30, 2014, in Highlands TX to update to the community on the status of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study and to hear community input regarding their issues and concerns.
- The EPA co-leads a Community Advisory Committee including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, the Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, the Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties. This committee meets every other month regarding progress at the Site and community issues – the next meeting is being planned for August 2014.
- A Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) has been awarded to Galveston Bay Foundation.
- The EPA conducted a Site briefing for area elected officials on April 30, 2014.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Completion of the Feasibility Study.



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